

[CONTINUED FROM SECOND PAGE.]

ter," he repeated, as he slightly touched it with the finger of his right hand with a look of disgust—"permit me to destroy it and to forget that it was ever written."

Looking from one lady to the other and seeing no sign of opposition, he tore it down the middle, and threw the portions into the fire. He watched them until the flames had seized on every part; and then, as if content that it was wholly and irrevocably destroyed, he approached Madame Reval, and bent his knee before her, as she regarded alternately, with the utmost satisfaction, her daughter, and him whom she would have chosen for her son-in-law, if the choice had been in her power.

"Or if the memory of this unhappy letter cannot altogether pass away, and if part of it must still remain in your remembrance, think only of the words which say, 'if your daughter and myself had been acquainted.' We are acquainted, and know each other already as if we had never been apart. I do not separate those whom charity has united. I just now called Mademoiselle by the name of sister; let me call her by another name, not less kind, but more sacred—that of wife. I have no fortune to offer her, but feel myself animated by double courage and hope. For her—for you, madame, who will never quit us, I will work with energy and determination, and I feel that I shall succeed in my efforts. Oh! madame, deign to answer me! But you weep—you give me your hand—you consent to my request?"

"And you, Anna, what do you say?" asked Madame Reval, as she held out the other hand to her daughter.

"Have I ever any other will than yours, dear mother?" and she pressed the hand to her lips.

"You consent, then, mademoiselle?" said Jules; "then you will allow me to present you this ring as a mark of our engagement."

He handed her a little ring set round with turquoises.

"It is Anna's ring!" said Madame Reval, with surprise.

"Yes, mother," said Anna, quite confused; "I was obliged to sell it to replace the money I had received for my embroidery."

"It was in purchasing it that I discovered your address, although you entered in the jeweller's book only the name of Anna. It is to this ring that I owe the happiness of again beholding you."

He took, as he spoke, the unresisting hand of the young girl, and placed on her finger the pledge of their union.

The same evening, in order to fulfill the benevolent intentions of M. Barsac, who was obliged to leave town for Bordeaux, Anna returned to the old man's lodgings. He was no longer to be found; he had disappeared without pointing out his new abode!

A month after, in the humble lodging of Madame Reval, a few were assembled to witness the signing of the marriage contract before the notary, who soon made his appearance; he was followed by an elderly man richly attired. As the latter was not introduced, no person took much notice of him, for each was too much occupied with the ceremony for which they had come together. Madame Reval was still an invalid, and had her daughter seated near her. Jules Barsac was standing on the other side. The notary placed his portfolio on the table, and took from it a contract of marriage, which he proceeded to read aloud. After having specified the little property of the bridegroom, he went on to detail the fortune of the young lady; "Madame Reval makes over to her daughter the sum of £1,000 per year—"

"You are making a mistake, Monsieur," interrupted Madame Reval; "formerly, indeed, I did intend—"

The notary, without paying any attention to this interruption, continued—"£1,000 a year, arising from money in the public funds, for which here are the securities."

Saying this he displayed the coupons on the table, and Madame Reval, her daughter, and Jules Barsac, all made a movement as if about to speak, when the aged stranger arose and made a sign for them to remain silent. Surprised at the interference, they awaited with interest the result of this strange scene.

"What!" said the old man with a broken voice and addressing Anna, "what, mademoiselle! do you not remember your poor old man?"

While she was looking earnestly at him, trying to read in his venerable countenance the marks of misery and suffering, he continued—

"You have, then, forgotten ten years of daily kindness! You have forgotten the 3d of January, with the assistance you gave so opportunely—the fire, the wine, and the wing of a fowl wrapped up in a newspaper? all forgotten? Well, that very piece of newspaper is the cause of all my misery being at an end. In an advertisement which it bore, I read the intelligence that a French gentleman named Francois de Chazal had been for years seeking in vain for his brother, Jacques de Chazal, ruined like him, in the revolution; and that, by his will, he had ordered an advertisement to be inserted every week for three years, that the brother might come forward and claim his ample fortune. That Jacques de Chazal now stands before you; it is I.

"Without delay I set out for London, and only returned yesterday. Your notary," continued he, speaking to Madame Reval, "is mine, from him I heard of the intended marriage of your daughter. To that angel I owe my life; and the least I can do is to present her with a part of that fortune, which, without her, never would have reached my hands."

"But, monsieur, said Madame Reval, with emotion, 'perhaps you have a family?'"

"Yes, madame," replied he, bowing low as

he spoke, "if you will admit me into yours."

"Ah, you made part of our family for such a long time!" said Ann, pressing in her hands those of M. de Chazal; then, with a gesture full of naivete and grace, pointing to her intended husband, she added, in a low voice, "It is he who took you up. Do you recollect him? Ah! you say that to me you owe your life; if you only knew how much I am indebted to you—if you only knew! But we will separate no more, and shall have time to tell you all about it."

Jules came forward to present the pen to his bride, and they both signed the marriage contract. Formed under such auspices, who can doubt that it was a happy one?

## THE DESERET NEWS.

ELIAS SMITH.....EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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### The Grand Jury System.

Within the last two or three years, in most, if not all the States in the Union, the grand jury system has been severely criticised by eminent jurists and statesmen, as well as by observing and thinking men in all ranks and classes of society, and not a few have come to the conclusion that, although it was once an excellent provision of law, and has subserved the purposes for which it was intended, in thousands of instances, it is of no particular benefit as it now operates, and should be dispensed with in the administration of justice, and the probability is that, not many years hence, a material change will take place in relation to the manner of procedure in criminal prosecutions.

The provision in the fifth article of the amendments to the Constitution, that "no person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury," was considered necessary at the time of its adoption, to prevent persons from being put upon trial for alleged offences unjustly; and no doubt it has saved many innocent persons from being arraigned before courts and subjected to the expense of defending themselves against false accusations and to many other inconveniences, not to say unjust convictions, especially in times of religious, political or other excitement, to which the human race have ever been more or less subject, particularly in republican or democratic governments, where the prejudices of men are seemingly more liable to blind them and lead them astray, than in other governments not so liberal.

Many of those who are advocating the abolishment of the grand jury system, readily admit that it was, at the time it was instituted, a wise provision and that when its principles have been strictly carried out, in the administration of justice, much good has resulted from it; but they contend, on the other hand, in many instances, by the working of the law in the hands of corrupt judges and jurors, notorious villains have greater opportunities afforded them for escaping justice than they would have if that system was not in existence, and that it too often works prejudicially to the innocent who are unfortunately suspected of crime, as they frequently have to be incarcerated in prison a length of time before they can be legally tried for the offences of which they are accused, even if they waive the right guaranteed by the Constitution, to have their case first go before a grand jury, which some men of high legal attainments have decided they cannot lawfully or rightfully do.

It is also argued that the system is too slow in its operations generally for the times, and too expensive, as it is usually made to apply to subserve the ends of justice and, if for no other reasons, it should, for these, be dispensed with and some other system adopted in its stead for the prosecution of criminals or of persons accused of crime, more suited to the exigencies and spirit of the age, and which, at the same time, will secure to the accuser and accused as much justice as they can expect under existing circumstances, and at a quicker and much cheaper rate.

Among the States who have taken action in relation to doing away with the cumbersome appendage to the machinery of criminal jurisprudence, as some call the present grand jury system, is old, staid Vermont. A bill was introduced at the late session of the Legislature of that State, which was favorably received and it was thought would become a law, the provisions of which were, that persons accused of crimes should be put upon trial at once, without the intervention of a grand jury, after the case underwent an examination before a justice

of the peace, where all criminal prosecutions were to be commenced; in the event that the magistrate decided upon the evidence adduced, that the accused ought to be held to answer for the alleged offence before the court having jurisdiction.

Such a course would be attended with less delay and with less expense and, so far as we understand the operation of such things, with equal certainty that the innocent would not be any more liable to suffer unjustly, nor the guilty to go unwhipped of justice, than if the present system was strictly followed out in criminal prosecutions.

Change merely for the sake of change, and when no good reasons can be assigned for a departure from principles that have long been considered good and wise is not very commendable, in religion, politics, law or any thing else that may affect the prosperity and happiness of nations, states or communities; but, as time progresses, the circumstances that attend and control, to a greater or less extent, the affairs of mankind, are continually changing and, to conform with those changes, laws in civilized countries have often to be altered, modified and even repealed and others substituted in their stead; and, if the system to which we have alluded is not sooner or later superseded by some other rule of action, equally as efficacious in the administration and attainment of justice, and more in accordance with the principles of progression, than the one now observed in the United States, we are mistaken in the signs of the times.

It may not be politic to dispense with the system entirely at once. There may be cases when it might be safe and necessary to have a grand jury inquire into cases before the accused are put upon trial; but in cases of less importance, when there is but little involved, the grand jury law, as it is made to apply, particularly in this Territory, is worse than useless, and could pass to the list of things that have become obsolete with material benefit to community, morally and pecuniarily. Such is our opinion, and there are many others who have watched the peculiar workings of the system who do not differ with us very materially on this point.

### Doings of the Legislative Assembly.

In the Council, during the late session of the Legislative Assembly, the following entitled Bills, Resolutions and Memorials were introduced and acted upon and, according to the best of our recollection, not having the printed minutes to refer to, with the following results:

No. 1.—An act for the encouragement of the culture of cotton.

The bill was referred back to the committee on Agriculture, Trade and Manufactures with instructions to report, if deemed necessary, which they did not, but subsequently an appropriation of five hundred dollars was made to the D. A. & M. Society, for the encouragement of cotton culture and that of dye stuffs, etc.

No. 2.—An act incorporating Great Salt Lake City.

Passed both Houses and became a law.

No. 3.—An act authorizing the incorporating towns and villages.

Laid on the table indefinitely.

No. 4.—An act apportioning to certain counties representatives to the Legislative Assembly.

Tabled indefinitely.

No. 5.—An act repealing certain acts granting herd grounds, and authorizing county courts to remove herds of cattle from the immediate vicinity of settlements.

Passed and became a law.

No. 6.—An act repealing certain acts and appropriating money to locate and open a road from Great Salt Lake City to the valley of the Weber.

Passed through all the stages of legislation, and became a law.

No. 7.—An act creating the office of land commissioner, and defining his duties in relation to lands granted to the Territory for University purposes.

Tabled indefinitely.

No. 8.—An act discontinuing a portion of the Territorial or State road in Davis county.

Passed both branches and became a law.

No. 9.—An act in relation to building a bridge over Jordan river.

Passed and became a law.

No. 10.—An act declaring certain things to be property, specifying the owner thereof, defining the mode for recovering its possession, and providing for redress of any grievances that may arise from proceedings under this act.

Passed and became a law.

No. 11.—An act in relation to the Territorial revenue.

Passed both Houses, but had not been approved by the Governor up to the time of the adjournment.

No. 12.—An act providing for a bridge across Weber river.

Passed and became a law.

### RESOLUTIONS.

A resolution to print the journals of the ninth session.

Adopted and approved by the Governor.

A resolution to publish and distribute the laws and journals of the present session.

Adopted and approved.

A joint resolution complimentary to the executive.

Adopted unanimously.

In the House of Representatives the bills presented were:

No. 1.—An act to incorporate the Deseret Historical Society.

Subsequently withdrawn.

No. 2.—An act to create the office of County Road Commissioner, etc.

Substituted by No. 12.

No. 3.—An act concerning tenants holding over, etc.

Substituted by No. 7.

No. 4.—An act in relation to common schools.

This bill was presented on the 27th of Dec. by Mr. Wandell, chairman pro tem of the Committee on Education, and ordered to be printed. On the 28th it was referred back to the committee. Reported again on the 29th, and again referred back. It came up on its second reading on Jan. 7th, and after some alterations and amendments it was referred to a special committee consisting of Messrs. Young, Wandell, Thurber, Candland, West, Woolley, Rockwood and Bullock. On the 13th the special committee to whom it was referred reported unfavorably to its passage, but it was subsequently taken up and on the 14th it passed the House, and on the 17th it was also passed by the Council—and has been approved by the Governor, and thereby became a law.

No. 5.—An act in relation to the judiciary.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary, who reported unfavorably to its passage.

No. 6.—An act in relation to the Penitentiary.

After undergoing sundry amendments, it was finally passed by both Houses, and has been approved.

No. 7.—An act concerning tenants holding over.

Passed the House, but was defeated in the Council.

No. 8.—An act appropriating money for Provo canyon and bridge.

Substituted by No. 18.

No. 9.—An act releasing a portion of Payson city limits.

Substituted by No's 20 and 21.

No. 10.—An act granting Emigration canyon to A. M. Harmon and W. H. Branch.

Referred to committee who reported unfavorably, which report was concurred in.

No. 11.—An act prescribing the manner of assessing and collecting taxes.

This bill passed the House, and was sent to the Council, where it met with some opposition and was finally substituted by C. F. No. 11.

No. 12.—An act specifying who are County Road Commissioners.

Referred and reported upon unfavorably.

No. 13.—An act regulating the manufacture and sale of liquors.

Passed both Houses and became a law.

No. 14.—An act providing for building a bridge over Weber river.

Passed the House but was finally substituted by (C. F.) No. 12.

No. 15.—An act changing the North boundary of Ogden city.

Passed both Houses and was approved.

No. 16.—An act changing the location of a portion of the State Road in Davis county.

Passed the House but was substituted by (C. F.) No. 8.

No. 17.—An act granting bridge to Benjamin Alvord.

Passed both Houses and approved.

No. 18.—An act repealing Provo Road company.

Passed both Houses.

No. 19.—An act concerning mechanics and laborers' liens.

Passed the House, but was defeated in the Council.

No. 20.—An act releasing a portion of Payson city.

Passed and approved.